

HABS  
IND,  
45-GARY,  
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City of Gary, Indiana Municipal Building (City Hall)  
401 Broadway  
Gary  
Lake County  
Indiana

HABS No. IN-197

P H O T O G R A P H S

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20240

Name: City of Gary, Indiana Municipal Building (City Hall)

Location: 401 Broadway  
Gary, Lake County, Indiana 46402

Located at the ~~northeast~~<sup>South</sup> corner of Fourth Avenue at Broadway; bounded by Fourth Avenue on the north; Massachusetts Street on the east, and Broadway on the west. The building currently faces west on to Broadway.

Present Owner: City of Gary

Present Occupant: City of Gary Administration

Present Use: Municipal government of Gary, Indiana administrative offices.

Significance: The current City Hall structure was erected in 1927 as an integral element of the Gateway Plan. The Gateway Plan, proposed by the Gary Commerce Club in 1924, was to be designed in such a manner as to create a balanced intergration of landscaping and structures providing an aesthetically pleasing "front door" to the city. The Gateway Plan was designed to consist of a park, a court building, and the City Hall at a cost of three million dollars.

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

1. Date of erection:
  - a. August 10, 1927 - City authorized the sale of \$690,000 in municipal bonds.
  - b. August 22, 1927 - Mayor Floyd Williams turned first shovel of sand at construction site.
  - c. October 12, 1927 - Cornerstone laid
  - d. October 27, 1928 - Building dedicated
  - e. December 17, 1928 - Building occupied

2. Architect:

PHILIP BROOKS MAHER

Member of George W. Maher and Son from 1921 to 1924. Before establishing his own firm in 1924. Received training in architecture at the University of Michigan (3 years) and the Engineering Department at Great Lakes Training Center (1 year).

During 1923, the Gary Commerce Club commissioned Maher to draft a prospectus for the Gary Gateway (Gary Municipal Building, County Court House, and Gateway Park). Maher was selected to design the Municipal Building.

Philip B. Maher's principal works include: Gary, Indiana Municipal Building; Women's Athletic Club (Chicago, Illinois); Farewell Office Building (Chicago, Illinois); Blackstone Shop (on Astor Street, Chicago, Illinois); residences along the North Shore in Chicago, Illinois; and with his father, George Maher, designed the Gary Bathhouse in Marquette Park (Gary, Indiana).

3. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers:

- a. General Contractor: General Construction Company
- b. Lighting: Lighthouse Electric
- c. Heating/Ventilation: Charles H. Mahoney
- d. Plumbing: E.M. Pripps

4. Original Plans and Construction:

The architect's drawings called for the Municipal Building to be of cut stone construction. The structure is however of concrete over masonry. The structure's principal entrance was on the northside facing United States Steel Mill. Skylights were featured in the third floor hallways. A formal garden was designed for the southside

of the building.

The structure was designed so as to encourage enlargement without losing the character of the structure. The current structure is designed so as to form the north wing of an "H" form structure.

5. Alterations:

- a. 1938 - Renovation of fourth floor for use as Law Department.  
Contractor: J.T. Hutton
- b. 1947 - Southeast portion of the basement was remodeled for additional office spaces.  
Contractor: J.T. Hutton
- c. 1950 - Dome cover added  
Contractor: Jones and Sons
- d. 1956 - City Council Chambers renovated  
Contractor: Townsend Incorporated
- e. 1958 - Tiles removed from roof and asphalt roofing replaced  
Contractor: M. Martin Incorporated
- f. 1963 - The entrance on the north side was eliminated with the doors being replaced with windows.  
Contractor: Beine, Hall, and Curren, Incorporated
- g. 1963 - Skylights on the third floor were removed and replaced with a plaster ceiling.  
Contractor: Beine, Hall, and Curren, Incorporated
- h. 1965 - Vault placed in Treasurer's office with electric locks.  
Contractor: Townsend Incorporated
- i. 1969 - Renovation of Mayor's Suite on Second Floor. Renovation included replacing vaulted ceilings with a straight ceiling.  
Contractor: H. Winters Construction Company
- j. 1975 - City Council Chambers renovated. Recess lighting was installed partially obscuring the decorated beams in ceiling.  
Contractor: Stimack

- k. 1979 - Fourth Floor wiring upgraded.  
Contractor: Stimack
- l. 1979 - Renovation of Personnel Department in center of  
basement level.
- m. 1979 - Tuckpoint, replace, and redesign molding around  
second floor of building. (Damaged by a severe  
winter)  
Contractors: Stimack and Cawff Construction Company
- n. 1979 - Handrailing installed on front entrance way  
Contractor: Stimack
- o. 1980 - Heating system upgraded  
Contractor: Great Lakes Company
- p. 1981 - Handicap accessibility ramp constructed into the  
front lower level entrance  
Contractor: Round the World Construction Company
- q. 1981 - Windows throughout structure are in the process  
of being upgraded from the wooden track windows  
to the black mat aluminum double casement windows  
Contractor: Lazarro Glass Company

All plans for renovations are located in the Building Department.

#### B. HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The Municipal Building at 401 Broadway was the third structure designed to be used as administrative offices for the City government. It was the second structure to be built on the site, the previous structure had been a frame building constructed in 1910.

The current building was erected during the City's most productive ~~Contractive~~ period, in the late 1920's. The Municipal Building housed the administration of Mayor Floyd Williams. The structure included the alarm operating room, an innovative city wide fire alarm system of the era. A police station was located in the basement. There was additional

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space allocated to be used as a temporary lock up facility.

Additional information is available through reference listed in  
the Bibliography.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Description of Exterior:

The City's Municipal Building is a four floored domed structure designed in the modified Grecian-Doric style. The dome, covered in hammered steel rest on an octangular base.

Constructed of masonry with a cost concrete stone veneer. The structure has a height of sixty three (63) feet, seventy eight (78) feet width, and length of one hundred and eighty (180) feet.

The building is defined by the fluted columns and pilasters.

B. Description of Interior:

The valuted hallways of the building have an east to west orientation converging in the center to form a lobby. The center lobby has recessed panels with an extented center floral motif. This treatment continues to the second floor ceiling. The center lobby is dominated by a massive flared marble stairway railed in iron and brass. Large windows on the landing were designed to look out over the fleur de lis formal rose gardens which has been converted to a parking facility.

The second floor is dominated by the large three tiered chandelier over the stairway. There are ornamental cornices featured in the lobbies and vestibules.

The Council Chambers is rectangular with twenty half corinthian order columns. There are six ceiling support beams encased in plaster with a gold leaf design.

The lower level and third floor level feature vaulted ceiling and three quarter marble walls.

Hallways have a terrazzo finish. Office floors are concrete covered by linoleum tile. Elevators flank the lobby on the east and west sides. The building is heated by a gas fueled steam boiler with an oil furnace backup system.

C. Site:

The building has a northern orientation.

The City Hall is an element of the Gateway Plan which includes the County Court house, Gateway Park and City Hall.

A formal garden flanks the structure's north side while an employee's parking facility is adjacent to the structure's south side.



PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural Drawings:

Plans for the Municipal Building, Gary, Indiana. Philip B. Maher,  
Architect, June 27, 1927.  
Location: City Engineer's Office

B. Early Views:

"Laying of the Cornerstone of City Hall."  
October 12, 1927. Rendering on program

"Steel-O-Rama." 1956. Pictures of the ground breaking, laying of  
the cornerstone, working, and completion. Jubilee booklet commemo-  
rating Gary's Silver Anniversary.

"Welcome to Gary", 1939. Pictures in a pamphlet distributed by  
the Gary Commerce Club.

C. Bibliography

1. Primary Sources:

- a. Minutes of the Regular Meetings of the Common Council of the  
City of Gary.

July 11, 1927 and October 15, 1928

- b. News articles from Gary Post Tribune  
October 21, 1927

April 26, 1938

May 8, 1947

June 26, 1950

May 27, 1956

June 10, 1956

April 7, 1970

August 31, 1974

March 23, 1978

- c. Cornerstone

2. Secondary Sources:

- a. Books

John Bon, Governments of Lake County, Indiana, (1966).

John O. Bowers, Dream Cities of the Calumet, (1929).

James B. Lane, City of the Century: A History of Gary, Indiana (1978).

Myron G. Taylor, Ten Years of Steel (1938)

Sam B. Woods, The First Hundred Years of Lake County, Indiana (1938)

Writer's Program of the Works Projects Administration, The Calumet Region Historical Guide (1939).

b. Magazines and Journal Articles:

Anthony Brooks, "Gary, Indiana: Steel City Extraordinary." Journal of American Studies. Volume 9. April, 1975

George Crile, "Tax Assessor Has Many Friends." Harper's Volume 245, November, 1972

Elliott Flower, "Gary the Magic City." Putnam's. Volume 5, January - March, 1909.

Henry B. Fuller, "An Industrial Utopia: Building Gary, Indiana to Order." Harper's Weekly. Volume 51. October 12, 1927.

Raymond A. Mohl and Neil Betten, "The Failure of Industrial City Planning: Gary, Indiana, 1906 - 1910." Journal of the American Institute of Planners. Volume 38. July, 1972.

"Return of the Glow," Time. Volume 74. November 30, 1959.

c. Newspaper Articles:

Roy G. Parry, "Remember 'Way Back When", Gary Post Tribune. February 8, 1940 and November 6, 1965.

Harold Van Dusen, "The Twenty Years War Along the Little Calumet" Gary Post Tribune. November 13, 1955.

Douglas Wilson, "The Gary of the Future." Gary Post Tribune. July 29, 1932.

d. Materials found in the Indiana Room of the Gary Public Library:

Chamber of Commerce. "Gary Forges Prosperity." 1929.

Rose Feld. "Growing Up With Gary." Success. October, 1935.

James C. Howe. "The History of Gary." n.d.

"Steel-O-Rama" Jubilee booklet commemorating Gary's Silver Anniversary, 1956.

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e. Interviews:

Mr. Donald Annese, Landscape Architect  
Mr. John Bussell, City Employee  
Ms. Pauline Hudson, City Pioneer  
Ms. Katheryn Martin, Pioneer City Employee  
Ms. Dharathula Miller, Historian  
Sargent Robertson, Information Officer, Gary Police Department

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